

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 18, 2005 in connection with the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 12, 14, 15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-36 and 38-62 are pending in this application, of which claims 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 34, 35, 39, 61 and 62 are independent claims. Claims 12, 14 and 17-19 have been amended in this response. Claims 11, 13, 16, 21, 22 and 26 are canceled, without prejudice. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his recognition of the allowable subject matter in the pending claims. The application as now presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

A. Information Disclosure Statements

As previously noted in Applicants' response dated July 19, 2005, Applicants respectfully point out that it appears that some IDSs filed by the Applicants have not yet been considered by the Examiner. According to Applicants' records, IDSs filed on the following dates have been received by the PTO (as indicated on PAIR and as evidenced by return post cards stamped by the PTO) but not yet reviewed and/or initialed by the Examiner:

- January 9, 2004 (first listed reference to Campagna, US 4,394,716)
- August 26, 2004 (first listed reference to DeGarmo, US 3,192,379)

Applicants note that in the Office Action mailed March 31, 2004, the Form 1449 for the IDS filed on January 9, 2004 was signed by the Examiner, but the references were not initialed by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review each of the IDSs indicated above, together with the references cited on the Form PTO-1449 attached to each of these IDSs, and return initialed and signed copies of the Forms PTO-1449 to the Applicants, thereby indicating review by the Examiner of the cited references. If the Examiner requires additional copies of these IDSs, the Examiner is encouraged to contact

the undersigned representatives at the telephone number indicated below to request these copies.

B. Claims Allowed

The Examiner allowed claims 34, 35, 39, 61 and 62. Applicants note that claims 36, 38 and 42-60 depend directly or indirectly from claim 35 and are thus allowable at least by dependency. Similarly, claims 40 and 41 depend directly or indirectly from claim 39 and are thus allowable at least by dependency.

C. Claims Objected To

The Examiner objected to claims 13-15, 17-19, 20, 23-25 and 27-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim(s). Applicants amend claim 12 to include the limitations of dependent claim 13 to place claim 12 in condition for allowance. Claim 13 is canceled, without prejudice, claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 12 and claim 15 depends from claim 14. Applicants amend claims 17-19 to incorporate the limitations of claim 16 to place these claims in condition for allowance and cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

Applicants note that claims 20, 23 and 27 are independent claims and objections thereto as being dependent upon a rejected base claim are improper. Based on the Examiner's statements in item 5 on page 4 of the Office Action that the prior art does not teach the features recited in claims 20, 23 and 27, independent claims 20, 23 and 27 are deemed allowable. Claims 28-33 depend from claim 27 and are deemed allowable at least by dependency.

C. Conclusion

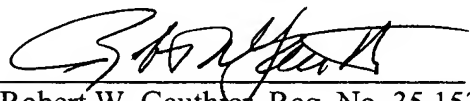
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 06-1448, Reference CKB-089.01.

Respectfully submitted,

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